

NATIONAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEM (NQS)

OVERVIEW/UPDATE



Department of
Public Safety

OHIO EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY



NQS – What We Know

- EMPG Program recipients (states) are encouraged to use EMPG Program funds to support NQS implementation efforts.
- For FY 2022, as a post-award requirement, all recipients in the 50 states and the District of Columbia must begin their NQS implementation efforts by achieving, or working towards achieving, the Phase 1 objectives
- AND must, at a minimum, plan for implementation of the Phase 2 objectives.



NQS – What We Know

- All other jurisdictions (subrecipients) must, at a minimum, **plan** for implementation of Phases 1 and 2.
- Recipients and subrecipients will be considered in compliance with the NQS requirements as long they are working towards implementing the NQS Implementation Objectives.



NQS – What We Know

- NQS is available to all jurisdictions, but is not required to replace an existing system that aligns with the [implementation objectives](#).
- As long as a recipient is making progress towards addressing the NQS implementing objectives, they will have satisfied the EMPG requirement.
- Reporting requirements appear to be reserved to just the state/recipient level.



NQS – Defined

- “Only EMPG Program-funded deployable personnel, as determined by each recipient organization, will be required to meet NQS certification requirements.”
 - The determination of “deployable personnel” is defined by FEMA [FAQ publication](#) from April 2022
 - Ohio EMA will recommend that all county personnel funded by EMPG that have an expected or actual role in the county EOC be included in the county’s qualification process and tracking.



NQS – Timeline

Fiscal Year	RECIPIENT (STATE)	SUBRECIPIENT - COUNTIES
FY 2022	Phase 1 Objectives	“...plan for implementation of Phases 1 and 2.”
FY 2023	Phase 2 Objectives	Phase 1 Objectives
FY 2024	Phase 3 Objectives	Phase 2 Objectives
FY 2025	Implementation complete	Phase 3 Objectives



NQS – Implementation Objectives

PHASE	OBJECTIVES
PHASE 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure that incident workforce personnel qualifying for a position meet the minimum training requirements from the Job Title/Position Qualification for that position.- Use of a resource management or qualification tool system to track the qualification, certification, and credentialing of incident workforce personnel.



NQS – Implementation Objectives

PHASE	OBJECTIVES
PHASE 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop organizational qualification system procedures, certification program, and credentialing standards for incident workforce personnel in alignment with the NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System.



NQS – Implementation Objectives

PHASE	OBJECTIVES
PHASE 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Design, develop and conduct exercises in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) for incident workforce personnel.



Ohio EMA Implementation

Proposed Implementation Actions

- Utilizing existing EOC “Assignment Detail” descriptions as basis for EOC positions.
- Making some enhancements to existing policy framework, directives and guidance to better align with NQS lexicon.
- Tracking employee training status through excel spreadsheet (existing).
- Not anticipating a formal Qualifications Review Board for our positions.



NQS - RESOURCES

- <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/components/emergency-operations-center>
- <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/components/nqs-supplemental-documents>
- <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/components/positions>

